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JPRS L/10311

8 February 1982

# Worldwide Report

NARCOTICS AND DANGEROUS DRUGS

(FOUO 7/82)



FOREIGN BROADCAST INFORMATION SERVICE

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CONTENTS

ASIA

INDONESIA

Increased Use of Marihuana by Students  
(KOMPAS, 12 Nov 81)..... 1

Briefs  
Theft of Evidence..... 2

MALAYSIA

Briefs  
Drug Detoxification Center Proposed..... 3

PAKISTAN

Hashish Seized on Panamanian Ship  
(DAWN, 17 Jan 82)..... 4

Briefs  
Baluchistan Opium Seizure..... 5  
Opium, Charas Seized..... 5

PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA

Moscow Radio Views Beijing's 'Opium War'  
(Moscow Radio, 19 Jan 82)..... 6

THAILAND

ONCB Chief Says PRC Preferred as Narcotics Transit Point  
(SIAM RAT SAPPADA WICHAN, 23 Nov 81)..... 7

- a -

[III - WW - 138 FOUO]

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Progress in Poppy Suppression Drive Noted (SIAM RAT SAPPADA WICHAN, 8 Nov 81).....	11
Royal Figure Assists Meo in Evading Anti-Poppy Measures (SIAM MAI, 14 Nov 81).....	15
Meo Continue To Plant Poppies (SIAM RAT, 21 Oct 81).....	18
Ties With Burma Play Role in Narcotics Suppression (Saengthai Khaophuthai; SIAM RAT, 3 Nov 81).....	19
Columnist: Size of Opium Caravan Warrants U.S. Help (Suk Wannasak; BAN MUANG, 12 Oct 81).....	23
Morphine Bound for Malaysia Seized (DAO SIAM, 21 Oct 81).....	25
Suspects Held With 50 Grams of Heroin (POST, 19 Dec 81).....	26
Three French Nationals Held for Smuggling Heroin (POST, 24 Dec 81).....	27
Briefs Former BPP Corporal Held	29

## LATIN AMERICA

## BOLIVIA

Briefs Five Cocaine Factories Dismantled	30
---	----

## COLOMBIA

Briefs Pills Seized	31
Cocaine Traffickers Arrested	31
Cocaine Confiscated	31

## PERU

Briefs Popular Action Deputy Suspended	32
---	----

## VENEZUELA

Overall Yearly Balance of Antidrug Activities (Alonso Zambrano; EL NACIONAL, 21 Dec 81).....	33
---	----

- b -

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NEAR EAST AND NORTH AFRICA

AFGHANISTAN

Finnish UN Drug Expert Reports on Country's Narcotics Use (HELSINGIN SANOMAT, 8 Jan 82).....	35
Briefs	
Opium Seized in Kabul	38

IRAN

Briefs	39
Drug Arrests	39
Mashhad Opium Seizure	39
Narcotics Stash Seized	39

SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA

IVORY COAST

Internal Security Plans Antidrug Campaign (MARCHES TROPICAUX ET MEDITERRANEENS, 8 Jan 82).....	40
---	----

SOUTH AFRICA

Detective Seizes Shipment of Dagga in Reitz (Rika van Graan; THE CITIZEN, 19 Jan 82).....	41
Briefs	
Dagga Destroyed	42
Dagga Seized	42
Mandrax Arrest	42

WEST EUROPE

DENMARK

Report: Only Two Percent Hashish Seizures From Christiania (INFORMATION, 19-20 Dec 81).....	43
Arrests Break Up Gang; Distributed 480 Kilograms of Hashish (Bent Bak Andersen; BERLINGSKE TIDENDE, 15 Jan 82).....	46
Police Report Hashish Users Are Increasingly Younger (Kirsten Sorrig; BERLINGSKE TIDENDE, 16 Jan 82).....	47
Briefs	
Prime Minister on Smuggling Appeal	48

- c -

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INDONESIA

## INCREASED USE OF MARIHUANA BY STUDENTS

Jakarta KOMPAS in Indonesian 12 Nov 81 pp 8, 9

[Text] Life for the youth in Banda Aceh is being threatened by the influence of marihuana and other drugs. Secretely, for some time, there have been marihuana dealers among the students, including those of junior and intermediate school level. Miswar Sulaiman, secretary of the Aceh, Level I Regional Legislature Development Union, learned about the situation, based on the survey results, conducted over the last 3 years. Drs Sudarmadji, Police Lt Col of Banda Aceh 101 Police Force Regional Command, confirmed the report of the Regional Legislative member. During the interview on Saturday with KOMPAS, Sudarmadji said that, at this time, the police have uncovered considerable evidence that marihuana is being distributed among the youth, primarily students. The police have a list of names of those who have used marihuana. According to Sudarmadji, the police have not yet carried out repressive measures, such as arrests or raids in the schools where they know marihuana is being distributed. At this time, the system of deterrence that is being used is that of issuing a warning. According to Sudarmadji, if these measures, being implemented now, do not achieve significant results, then no other alternative remains but to arrest and search those who are involved at the schools. He agrees that this can ruin the school's reputation in the eyes of the public. Because of this, he urges all participating teachers and principles of the school to closely watch the activities of the students who are involved in this evil. Sudarmadji is of the opinion that schools were selected by the drug pushers in Banda Aceh because the police had assessed them as an ideal place for drug trade. The same situation has been observed by Miswar Sulaiman, member of the Regional Legislature, Aceh Level I. According to their investigations, among the marihuana users, many are the children of officials and wealthy families. This group becomes the target for marihuana dealers because they have the money to buy it. Miswar states that the marihuana is distributed in small packets, at a price range of 500 rupiahs to 1,000 rupiahs per packet. It appears that their organization is operated secretly. They don't want to sell marihuana, except to those accomplices they already trust. Within the organization, Miswar emphasized, are officials involved as the mainstay of the operation. Because of this, it is difficult for the officials to arrest or search the people behind the marihuana dealers. It is believed that the marihuana source in Aceh is generally in the South East Aceh, Central Aceh Districts, and several areas in other regencies.

9556

CSO: 5300/8312

INDONESIA

BRIEFS

THEFT OF EVIDENCE--Msl, an employee in the office of the Jakarta district attorney, in the Evidence Collection Section, is being questioned at this time by the Central Jakarta 701 District Command, the Narcotics Special Unit Police, because of involvement with a morphine selling syndicate. Based on the investigation of the Police Special Narcotics Unit, they suspect Msl has already distributed 2500 pinches of morphine, valued at 7 million rupiahs, to the morphine distributors in Tanah Tinggi, Central Jakarta. The police indicated that the narcotics sold by Msl, are the evidence from the Jakarta district attorney's office. According to the "SH" source, during the case, pertaining to the smuggling of 5 kilograms of morphine by an international syndicate, caught by the customs officials with the help of the Republic of Indonesia State Police, this evidence was obtained from the Central Jakarta office. When the session ended, the evidence was taken to the Jakarta district attorney's office. At that time, one of their employees returned it to the previous office. The prohibited material was not sealed. The officer in charge at the Central Jakarta office told "SH" that they did not accept the 5 kilograms of morphine because it was not sealed. Shortly after this, the Central Jakarta Police 701 Special Narcotics Unit successfully arrested a morphine dealer whose operation was in the Tanah Tinggi, Central Jakarta area. One of the members, named Gg, was shot in the stomach because he tried to run away. He is being treated at the East Jakarta Persahabatan hospital. His friend JTE, also captured, confessed to the police that the morphine they were distributing had been received from an employee in the Jakarta district attorney's office, Msl. [Text] Jakarta SINAR HARAPAN in Indonesian 19 Nov 81 pp 1, 12] 9556

COS: 5300/8312

MALAYSIA

BRIEFS

DRUG DETOXIFICATION CENTER PROPOSED--Penang (Malaysia), 2 Jan--The Malaysian Government has been urged to open a drug detoxification and rehabilitation centre on an island to cater for addicts in the country. The National Anti-drug Agency's Penang Committee member, Dr Teng Hock Nan, said an island would be ideal as it could house up to 30,000 addicts at one time and prevent escapes. Dr Teng said that while the current nationwide operation aimed at eradicating drug addiction was a good move, steps should have been taken to see that there was enough space for all detained addicts. All the detoxification and rehabilitation centres in mainland Malaysia would face problems in accommodating the addicts, he added. Dr Teng said that although a centre on an island would cost the Government more money, the expenditure would be justified as drug addiction was a serious problem. "All the addicts and traffickers could be segregated and treated on an island until they were safe to return to society," he said. "On an island, it will be possible for the addicts to carry out farming projects. They can be given vocational training so they will return as useful citizens," he said. NAB/AFP [Text] [Rangoon THE WORKING PEOPLE'S DAILY in English 4 Jan 82 p 7]

CSO: 5300/4916



PAKISTAN

HASHISH SEIZED ON PANAMANIAN SHIP

Karachi DAWN in English 17 Jan 82 p 8

[Text]

The Customs Drug Enforcement Cell (DEC) has unearthed an international drug syndicate having German connections following the arrest of a German national with three kilograms of heroin in Germany.

In an operation carried out by drug sleuths aboard MS "ALEXA IV", — a Panama flag ship 10 miles off Manora on Thursday evening, they recovered over a dozen paint boxes containing 214 kilograms of hashish. The boxes were kept in three feet deep water near the hull of the ship.

Besides, they seized an undeclared pistol with 131 cartridges of different calibres.

Mr Muller, a German national, in-charge of the vessel, was arrested in this connection, on Saturday.

The Customs suspect presence of more drugs and arms and are awaiting rummaging when it is brought to the harbour.

The vessel reached from Hamburg on Nov. 11, 1981. Customs allege that the crew disposed of 6,000 bottles of Scotch whisky to local smugglers, got a berth on Nov. 24, discharged the scrap; and again went to outer anchorage awaiting loading.

According to Customs the Captain was offered berthing service but he refused to berth the vessel on grounds of 'technical fault'.

While the Customs were

seeking information about the vessel and its crew, its Captain, vanished from Taj Hotel. He was trailed and arrested in Germany with three Kgs. of heroin and since then startling details have been unfolded. The Customs are keeping the Interpol and the other agencies fully informed.

000: 5300/4600

PAKISTAN

BRIEFS

BALUCHISTAN OPIUM SEIZURE--Islamabad, 1 Jan--Customs seized 1,295 kilogrammes of opium, with a market value of about three million dollars, near Kalat in Baluchistan Province, which borders Iran and Afghanistan, it was reported here Thursday. A mobile customs squad uncovered the haul Wednesday after learning that a consignment of raw opium was being transported to Karachi by lorry for shipment abroad. Two people, including the driver of the truck, were arrested, the report said.--NAB/AFP [Text] [Rangoon THE WORKING PEOPLE'S DAILY in English 2 Jan 82 p 5]

OPIUM, CHARAS SEIZED--Sargodha--A big consignment of contraband opium and charas worth Rs. 1.1 million was seized and three persons were arrested here on Jan 2. According to details the Inspector, assisted by staff of local Excise and Taxation Department conducted successful raid and Shunoon Khan, Buksh Pathan and Sikandar Shah of Kot Fareed were arrested. [Text] [Karachi DAWN in English 9 Jan 82 p 5]

CSO: 5300/4599

PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA

MOSCOW RADIO VIEWS BEIJING'S 'OPIUM WAR'

BK200952 Moscow Radio in Burmese to Burma 1430 GMT 19 Jan 82

[Unattributed commentary "Beijing's Opium War"]

[Text] The recently-concluded talks between Burma and Thailand prove that trafficking of narcotic drugs continues to be the most serious problem for Southeast Asian nations. As all of you listeners know, 70 percent of the world's illegal drugs comes from the inaccessible Golden Triangle situated in the border regions of Burma, Thailand and China.

According to figures released by the United Nations, 700 to 800 tons of opium are produced annually in that region. Opium is transported by draft animals through numerous mountainous routes to clandestine laboratories where it is refined into heroin. Heroin, which leaves the traffickers with profits in the millions, is mainly distributed from Bangkok and Hong Kong.

The Burmese Government actively works to stop the narcotics traffic. It destroys clandestine poppy plantations every year while its troops expose drug traffickers and smash laboratories producing heroin. Burma believes that its campaigns against heroin will be even more successful if Beijing would stop supporting the traffickers.

The recently published pamphlet by the Information Department of Burma contains irrefutable facts that Beijing-influence rebels are trafficking drugs in the Golden Triangle. Beijing and its henchmen have no qualms about associating with the Chinese "mafia" gang which controls the manufacture and distribution of drugs in Southeast Asia, as well as the transportation of drugs to Western countries. It would not be an exaggeration to say that China is associating with the gang with criminal intent. Beijing acts in such a way because of its greed for profits.

A large part of the illegal profits are funnelled into China through arms purchases from China by rebels operating in Burma and other Southeast Asian countries. Beijing leaders have yet another plan for the Golden Triangle. This region has sufficient strategic importance for them to interfere in the affairs of neighboring countries. Increasing activities by Maoist groups based in the Golden Triangle reveal China's attempt to control antigovernment groups in Burma and Thailand, the counterrevolutionaries in Laos and the Pol Pot gang members.

The Loktha Pyelthu Nezin warned: We cannot ignore the fact that black-marketeering and drug trafficking are connected with subversive elements who are struggling against the Burma socialist program. The opium war waged by Beijing is part of its hegemonistic design to bring countries in the region under its influence.

CSO: 5300/2134

THAILAND

ONCB CHIEF SAYS PRC PREFERRED AS NARCOTICS TRANSIT POINT

Bangkok SIAM RAT SAPPADA WICHAN in Thai 23 Nov 81 pp 7, 8

[Article: "The Future of Narcotics: A New Route Looks Toward Peking"]

[Text] In narcotics trafficking, it is the heroin refineries that are considered to be the important element that produces the drugs and that stipulates the routes to smuggle the drugs to world markets, both in Asia and Europe. The place where the best No 4 heroin in the world is produced is the infamous Golden Triangle area.

Police Major General Phao Sarasin, the secretary-general of the Office of the Narcotics Control Board (ONCB), stated that the best quality heroin presently being produced is the heroin being produced at the refineries of Mr Lao Su, an international heroin kingpin who escaped from a Thai prison and established a base at Doi Luong along the Thai-Burmese border. He has been able to improve production techniques to the point where he can produce 98 percent pure heroin.

Concerning these heroin refineries, from what has been learned, they are located at 13-15 places along the Thai-Burmese border. During the middle of this year, 40 border patrol police carried on an operation in accord with the narcotics control plan in the area of Pa Sang Commune, Mae Chan District, Chiang Rai Province. As for the result of this operation, before the police could reach the refinery, they clashed with the defending forces of the narcotics traffickers for about 15 minutes. They seized goods and found the narcotics refinery. It was about 100 meters long and had four guardhouses. One M79, two large pans, No 999 opium seals, 80 liters of acetic anhydride, scales, 1,200 liters of cooked opium, air pumps, power generators and morphine presses were seized. The officials burned everything before they left, but they were not able to capture the producers because they fled after the clash.

The narcotics are smuggled out of the Golden Triangle. This area usually produces approximately 500 tons of opium a year, but this year, it is estimated that 700-1,000 tons will be produced because the good weather has helped the hill tribes obtain a better yield than last year. Thus, it is believed that the smuggling of narcotics will certainly increase too. The route used to smuggle the narcotics from the border usually passes through the Chiang

Saen area in Chiang Rai Province. Merchants from Thailand travel to Burma and contact the drug traffickers, most of whom are Ho Chinese.

An Interpol news source stated that the contact point that resembles a narcotics trafficking center is located in Ban Pong Khun in Tha Khi Lek District, Chiang Rai Province. This is a major center located only 2 kilometers from the border on the Mae Sai side. Merchants who go to purchase drugs here communicate with each other mainly in Chinese. The price of brown No 3 heroin is approximately 7,000 baht per pound. No 4 heroin is twice as expensive, that is, 14,000 baht per pound.

Concerning this trade, the real buyers must go and observe the harvesting and bagging on the mountains and affix seals in order to keep from being cheated. After that, others will make contact. The pick-up man, the person who transports the goods and the person who pays the money all carry out their tasks separately; they do not know each other. After the real buyer has looked at the bags, he pays 20 percent down. The gathering place used most often in order to transport the drugs to the plains is Doi Phami. The method used to transport the drugs is to hire hill tribesmen to carry the goods from the mountains to Mae Sai or Chiang Saen. It takes about 1 day to make this trip on foot.

After that, the drugs are smuggled from Mae Sai to Bangkok in gasoline trucks. The drugs are stored beneath special gasoline tanks and this hides the smell well. These gasoline trucks take the drugs to designated places in Bangkok for further shipment to Hong Kong, Holland and Malaysia. Those who go to pick up the "narcotics" use a code. Usually they use six Chinese characters, or they tear a 1 baht or 500 baht banknote in two and then match them. If the two halves match, the code is correct. The money is paid in cash or payment is made through a bank. But from interrogations of suspects, it appears that little money is kept in these bank accounts because the money is paid through foreign banks in order to prevent the money from being seized if the person is arrested as a suspect.

As for contact between the dealers and the smugglers, who do not know each other, false names are always used over the telephone. From investigations made by Interpol, it has been learned that thought is being given to establishing heroin refineries in the south, particularly in Hat Yai. Houses will be rented and used to store narcotics transported from the north. In the future, southern officials will seize more opium than heroin since these drug traffickers feel that the south is safer for smuggling. They first chose Sadao District but because the area was unsafe, they chose Hat Yai, which is a bigger city. Transportation is convenient and there are many more people here than in Sadao. [Because] there are few people in Sadao, there may have been leaks about their operations and they could have been caught easier than in Hat Yai District, Song Khla Province.

Malaysian narcotics traffickers will travel to Hat Yai in order to pick up drugs and smuggle them directly into Malaysia by giving the code to make contact. Most of the heroin smuggled into Malaysia will be sent on to Holland.

But if Singaporean traffickers are involved, the drugs will be smuggled into Singapore by boat and on the return trip electrical equipment will be smuggled into Thailand, especially by way of the Andaman Sea.

It can be seen that the route that uses Bangkok as the transit point is starting to shift to the south. There is also a trend showing that heroin is also being produced and smuggled into northeastern Thailand by Laos even though the heroin produced in Laos is not popular and is of very poor quality. But this is still very alarming and it is placing a greater burden on the narcotics control units to intercept it.

Furthermore, Police Major General Phao Sarasin, the secretary-general of the ONCB, revealed that a new route has been discovered that is used to smuggle narcotics from Bangkok to Hong Kong. Instead of sending the drugs to Hong Kong directly, the drugs are being smuggled indirectly by way of Peking since the Chinese officials there have little knowledge about narcotics suppression and getting through customs there is easier than in Hong Kong. Once the drugs reach Peking, they are smuggled south and then into Hong Kong.

Shipping the opium to refineries in southern Thailand is one element in the clever plan of the narcotics traffickers who want to escape the legal penalties imposed by the narcotics acts, penalties which range all the way to execution for the possession of heroin with intent to sell. Thus, by shipping opium, they have a greater chance to escape with their lives. Also, the transport route is shorter as compared with having to transport [heroin] from the north to collection points and then smuggling it abroad.

Malaysian police have reported that, even though no poppy is grown in Malaysia, they are encountering a greater drug problem. A heroin refinery was discovered for the first time at Bukit Mear Tacham in Kedah State along the border with Thailand. Based on investigations, it is believed that there are at least six other refineries similar to this one. Thus, more and more narcotics are being smuggled through various regions of Malaysia.

Concerning narcotics suppression last year, Thailand was able to make drug busts and arrest about 25,000 suspects. This is the highest figure ever. But even so, it does not appear that it will be possible to halt the smuggling of narcotics abroad. Rather, the trend is for even greater amounts to be smuggled out this year.

Because of the harsh [penalties] and the high price of narcotics, more heroin, opium and marijuana addicts are turning to thinner and benzene, which are just as dangerous as heroin.

It can be seen that Bangkok will probably become a center for narcotics smuggling again. Even though a substitute crops program has been started in the north in order to have the hill tribes turn to cultivating other crops and even though educational institutions and youths are being supervised, the budget for suppression activities has been increased and the United Nations and other countries are cooperating, smuggling techniques change constantly because of the great profits from opium.

Thus, the routes used to transport these goods are changed constantly and so it is difficult to suppress [the trade] or make arrests. When the old route has been watched too much, new routes never seen before, such as the Bangkok-Peking route, come into existence. Thus, it is as if a "new road is heading for Peking."

11943

CSO: 5300/4579

THAILAND

PROGRESS IN POPPY SUPPRESSION DRIVE NOTED

Bangkok SIAM RAT SAPPADA WICHAN in Thai 8 Nov 81 pp 10, 11

[Article: "Let Us Have 50 Years to Destroy the Poppies"]

[Text] November 1981 is the deadline for the joint poppy suppression program in Chiang Mai in accord with the program to "prohibit" and "eradicate" poppy cultivation. Poppy cultivation will be "prohibited" in 51 villages in 10 districts and one subdistrict and poppy plants will be destroyed in 10 of the villages in seven districts and one subdistrict.

Concerning the goal of the poppy suppression drive in these 10 villages, the government wants this to be an opium free zone. It is expected that it will take about 4 years to carry out this program to resolutely prohibit poppy cultivation in these areas. If the hill tribesmen violate the law, they must be punished in accord with the legal measures that the government is trying to put into effect in the mountain areas.

The government feels that while community development activities have been carried on in places where poppy is grown, including economic, social, educational, public health and agricultural activities that have been carried on with the cooperation of the United Nations since 1973, the Thai hill tribes in the "substitute crops cultivation and Thai hill tribes development" project villages are still secretly growing poppy. In particular, based on the 1980/1981 poppy cultivation survey, it appears that poppy cultivation has increased 24.49 percent over the 1979/1980 cultivation season. That is, from 29,084 rai, the area [planted in poppy] has increased to 34,661.46 rai, and the yield has increased from 15.49 tons to 48.57 tons, which in percentage terms is an increase of 213.56 percent.

Concerning the resolution calling for a prohibition on poppy cultivation in 51 villages and the "eradication" of poppy cultivation in 10 of the villages, the stipulated measures are not the same because these 51 villages have not been developed and promoted equally. All of the villages are located in Chiang Mai Province. Based on the survey, it appears that poppies are grown all over the province. A total of 11,068 rai are under cultivation with 154 villages, 4,502 families and 31,080 people engaged in poppy cultivation. Also, there are another 416 rai planted in poppy that belong to Ban Hua Mae Hat and Ban Pieng Luang in Chiang Dao District and Ban Luang



in Fang District, which are Ho Chinese villages, and to Ban Mae Nachon in Mae Cham District, which is a plains Thai village. Thus, the total area in Chiang Mai Province that is planted in poppy is 11,484 rai.

In this, the area that has the largest area planted in poppy is Mae Cham District with 3,305 rai. Next is Chiang Dao District with 2,152 rai. The district with the smallest area planted in poppy is Muang District with only 15 rai. But concerning these suppression activities to destroy the poppy plants, only 10 villages have been targeted. These 10 are: Ban Khun Chang Khien in Muang District, Ban Mae Sa Mai in Mae Rim District, Ban Buat Chan in Mae Rim District, Ban Khun Wang in San Padong District, Ban Pha Mon in Chom Thong District, Ban Hin Fon in Mae Cham District, Ban Phui Tai in Mae Cham District, Ban Mae Ko in Hot District and Ban Doi Sam Meun in Chiang Haeng Subdistrict.

To carry out the destruction of the poppy plants in these 10 villages, one eradication team has been established in each district. Each team is composed of one administrative official, one provincial police official, one district development official, one district agricultural official, one ONCB official, local kamnans and local village headmen. At a meeting, it was further stipulated that one group of officials (12 people) from the provincial police office and the border patrol police will be responsible for supervising things. The poppy eradication teams must not have more than 40 members, who are to be selected from among the general population.

As for the areas where "prohibition" is to go into effect, it is not necessary to establish operations teams. The district officer is the person who will normally carry this out since the hill tribes both respect and fear the district officer. The goal of this prohibition is to inform the hill tribes so that those who have poppy seed in their possession turn over the seed to the officials. After that, a memorandum will be sent; if the officials think it proper, they are to conduct a search and seize the poppy seed found.

In both suppressing poppies and prohibiting poppy cultivation, it has been specifically stated that neither Village Scouts nor Volunteer Defense Corps forces should be used. The local police should be the ones to establish forces to carry out things. Also, the use of military forces should be avoided. However, if the use of military force is necessary, only small numbers of troops should be used, with the provincial governor being the one who directly contacts the military unit in the locality. The reason for this is that an attempt was once made to destroy the poppy plants of the hill tribes in Nan Province by having the military mobilize Village Scouts and Volunteer Defense Corps members to go destroy the poppy plants of the hill tribes. But instead of destroying just the poppy plants, they also burned down the houses in the hill tribe villages. The government had to pay tens of thousands of baht in compensation. This caused both psychological and political damage that can affect the security of the state.

As for the hill tribesmen who make their living by growing poppies, during this suppression drive, there have been people who have said and proposed that the hill tribes have been induced to grow poppy because opium was bringing

a very high price last year. If the government really wants to eradicate opium, it should send both private and government merchants to purchase the opium. If the government cannot solve this problem, the hill tribes will find remote hidden areas to continue growing poppy since no other crop earns as much money as poppy. Also, the government usually just makes threats rather than actually carrying out suppression activities. "The government only announces a prohibition and threatens that it will destroy the poppy plants but it has never carried on a real suppression drive."

The hill tribes claim that they have not made any profit from growing substitute crops and that, at present, they have already invested money to grow poppies. Thus, they have asked to be allowed to grow poppy this year, which will be the last year, so that they can earn money to pay their debts to the investors who loaned them the money to grow poppy. As for Ban Mae Samai, it has asked to be allowed to grow poppy for another 50 years. As an alternative, it has asked that the government purchase the opium to process medicine or that it stipulate poppy cultivation areas along with solving the marketing problems for the people who grow substitute crops in accord with the United Nation's program by purchasing the entire yield produced by the hill tribes.

It was decided to destroy the poppy plants in November because, looking at the agricultural cultivation schedule of the hill tribes, [it can be seen that], in October, the hill tribes plant the main poppy crop (annual poppy), weed the poppy fields, harvest and dry the rice and harvest the hybrid crops, all of which takes them about 1 month. In November, they have to weed the poppy fields and harvest the main rice crop before they can harvest the poppy and extract the opium in December. In January, they extract and collect the opium. Thus, November is the right time to cut down the poppy plants since the poppies are not big enough to be harvested or to flower and they are not so small that they will come up again. If they are destroyed in December, this will be too dispiriting and this will not be good for the officials or for the owners of the poppy fields since the plants will just be uprooted and thrown away.

Police Major General Phao Sarasin, the secretary-general of the ONCB, stated that, in these 10 villages, in reality, they must definitely stop growing poppy. The income of these hill tribesmen, who do not have to grow poppy, is adequate to support them. If they secretly grow poppy, we will not be sympathetic. Concerning this problem, together with the governor of Chiang Mai Province, we have formed a joint management committee for the eradication of poppy cultivation in order to solve the problem. At the conference it was proposed that a real suppression drive be carried on since the substitute crops cultivation program has achieved satisfying results. Based on its assessment, the United Nations has provided additional funds to carry on the program in another 40 villages and a German support project is now getting underway with the opening of a school at Khun Chang Khien to which hill tribesmen will be sent for training.

As compared with 10 years ago when opium production reached 100-150 tons, last year, the people who made surveys on foot and who took aerial photographs found that opium production reached only 48.57 tons. This is a reduction of more than 50 percent. Also, the coffee that has been planted is bringing greater profits. The hope that we will become a second Brazil is beginning to come true. For example, at present, at Doi Sam Meun Mr Lao Yang's income has risen from 40,000 baht to 60,000 baht and this year it is expected to reach 90,000 baht. He has sent his children to study in Chiang Mai, and he has purchased additional land in Mae Rim.

Based on what has happened in the past when forces have been sent in to destroy the poppy plants of the hill tribes, something violent usually occurs since the hill tribes rise up to oppose this and they use weapons to keep the Thais from coming up the mountain. And in some villages, there are infiltrated areas of the terrorists, areas of influence of the 93rd Division and areas of influence of the Ho Chinese and Burmese minority groups, who earn money from the opium trade and use it to purchase weapons to fight the Burmese government. Thus, this is something that the ONCB and Chiang Mai Province should give careful thought to and find a way to prohibit and suppress this so that the desired results are achieved. But to carry on such activities only when pressured by foreign governments or to please the United Nations is to forget that "opium is a weapon in the political struggle."

11943  
CSO: 5300/4579

THAILAND

ROYAL FIGURE ASSISTS MEO IN EVADING ANTI-POPPY MEASURES

Bangkok SIAM MAI in Thai 14 Nov 81 pp 26-28

[Article: "The Opium Policy: Who Is Right?"]

[Text] "From summaries of various reports received by the Office of the Narcotics Control Board (ONCB), it has been learned that during this year's poppy growing season, large numbers of Thai hill tribesmen, especially those in the Ban Luang, Ban Khop Dong and Ang Khang areas in Chiang Mai Province, will grow poppy and no alternate crops will be grown because opium is bringing an especially high price this year. There is a credible report that states that Momchao Phisadet Ratchani, the Royal Projects chief, has given permission to the tribesmen in these areas to grow poppy and supported them in doing this.

"Concerning such a situation, besides the fact that this will enable narcotics to spread even more widely, this will also affect the crop substitution program both in carrying on activities, with the aim being to control and halt opium production in the future, and in [receiving] foreign support."

This is from a report by the ONCB.

On 23 September, General Prachuap Suntharangkun, the deputy prime minister, stated that he would travel to Burma to discuss cooperating in suppressing opium. As for suppression activities, Thailand has quickly concentrated on controlling poppy cultivation since September, especially in the hill tribe villages that were supposed to cultivate substitute crops. Besides this, General Prachuap also stated that an attempt will be made to draft a law prohibiting poppy cultivation in five northern provinces. An effort will be made to put this law into effect in November. After that, this will be done in other provinces.

But on 14 October, Mr Amnuai Yotsuk, an MP from Chiang Mai Province who is a member of the Social Action Party, told a reporter that he is troubled by the fact that the Meo are clearing the jungle in Chom Thong District, Chiang Mai Province, since they will then go on to clear areas on the mountains and during the cold season these areas will be filled with poppies just as in past years.

"This cold season, healthy poppies will be seen everywhere. Fertilizer has been used to promote growth because the Bank for Agriculture and Cooperatives (BAC) has given them loans since they can sell their yield at a high price and the BAC is certain that the loans will be repaid. I once went and asked them why they did not grow crops. They told me that they were not stupid like those below who are occupied only with growing crops that cannot be sold as easily as theirs. By living in a village that produces opium, with just one cup of the drug, things are fine...."

These are opposite paths.

Concerning the bad results, a report from the Administrative Subcommittee for the Study of Drug Problems stated that:

On the economic front, there are a total of about 500,000 drug addicts. Each addict must spend about 100 baht per day to support his drug habit, which amounts to approximately 18.25 billion baht per year. Besides this, most addicts are the country's young people and laborers and this causes labor losses amounting to approximately 27 million baht per day, or 9.855 billion baht per year (based on a minimum wage). Also, each year the state must spend 200 million baht on [narcotics control] and the cultivation of substitute crops.

On the social front, this will probably generate more crime, which can be seen from the fact that 20 percent of all criminals held by the Penitentiary Department are narcotics offenders. This may lead to degeneration in society and cause trouble both for those involved and for others.

On the political front, the state must take responsibility for the low-quality youths and the country's labor losses. It must also spend money each year to solve this problem. This may affect the country's security. One result is that Thailand's image [will be tarnished] in the eyes of the world.

Also, narcotics crimes are usually organized crimes. There are systematic networks known as crime syndicates. Many criminals work together and do this as a profession. They carry out activities in secret with overlapping networks that coordinate things both in and outside the country. The responsibility for carrying out the activities is divided by level.

It is [usually] very difficult to arrest the heads, or high-level people, of the syndicates because of a lack of evidence of their guilt. Usually, those who are arrested are the minor traffickers and transporters. And the arrest of these people does not help solve the problem since the major criminals have escaped the hand of the law and the sources of the narcotics have not been completely destroyed.

"At present, we are first giving warnings to stop. We give three warnings. The first time, we carry on public relations activities to get them to stop growing poppy [saying that] otherwise we will take strong action. Two weeks later we go out again and ask for the poppy seed and tell them to find other

crops to grow instead. If they still do not believe us after the two warnings, we wait until the poppies have grown to a height of about 50 centimeters and then we go and cut them down. We wait until they are only about 50 centimeters because then they can still plant substitute crops. If we waited until the poppy plants were taller, they would not be able to plant any other crops.

"The villages chosen to grow substitute crops will be villages that have been developed and that have received some training concerning the cultivation of substitute crops. All of these villages are in the ONCB's program. Other than this, we are not involved," said Mr Chaiya Phunsiriwong to SIAM MAI.

Thus, the resolute action that the state has hurriedly tried to carry out is the "total destruction of the poppy fields" by Section 3, the Administrative section of the Region 3 border patrol police headquarters and the ONCB.

But the operations gave rise to a concern that prohibiting the Thai hill tribes in the program area from growing poppy would lead to poor psychological results because the enemy might distort things to their advantage in spreading propaganda. Besides this, Region 3 border patrol police headquarters presented six plans of operation on 9 November 1979 in order to take "resolute steps."

But after things were discussed with Momchao Phisadet Ratchani, it appears that he did not agree because his policy was to allow the hill tribes to cultivate poppy (according to an ONCB report) in order to keep them from moving and growing poppy in other areas, which would ruin the royal project. Chiang Mai Province and the Region 3 border patrol police headquarters are still in awe of Momchao Phisadet with the result that no resolute action will be taken soon.

But Momchao Phisadet denied this, telling SIAM MAI:

"Think about it. Who am I to prohibit one group from growing poppy and to allow another group to do so. Since I am just an ordinary citizen, what right do I have to do something like this? Instead, you should go and ask the ONCB why they haven't achieved results whereas we have. I should not say too much when they say things like that -- that I support the cultivation of poppies."

However, the things that should be discussed are the Opium Act of 1929, the Narcotics Control Act of 1976 and the laws concerned. These cannot generally be used to coerce people because the government's policy of leniency toward the hill tribes who grow poppy has allowed the hill tribes to get used to this and they do not see the sanctity of the law. When this is added to the policy which the head of royal projects has toward the hill tribes, it becomes an obstacle to using the laws of the country to coerce these hill tribes.

Besides this, it causes conflicts during operations between the government units that are carrying out things in accord with the laws, or their duties, and the government units that are carrying out things in accord with the policy of the head of royal projects.

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CSO: 5300/4579

17

THAILAND

MEO CONTINUE TO PLANT POPPIES

Bangkok SIAM RAT in Thai 21 Oct 81 pp 1, 12

[Text] The MP from Chiang Mai proposed that the government urgently consider the problem of the mountain people aggressively trespassing on forest reserve and being granted bank credits for agriculture without collateral. This has caused misunderstanding in their heavy destruction of the forest. The public has the misconception that the government is more interested in the mountain people than its own citizens.

Amnuai Yotsuk, MP from Chiang Mao, Socialist Action Party, disclosed to reporters that he had sent a letter to Prime Minister Gen Prem Tinsulanon to give urgent consideration to the problem of the Meo tribe intruding and destroying the forest. He had received complaints from the residents of Ban Doi Kaeo, Amphoe Chom Thong, Chiang Mai, that they had suffered hardship since the Meo from Mae Daeng, Amphoe Phrao, Amphoe Fang, and Chiang Dao had made fields for shifting cultivation in the vicinity of the Inthanon highlands, which is a forest reserve and the beginning of the watershed, 200 families clearing the land 2 months ago, to plant crops and opium.

Amnuai Yotsuk stated that in addition the public complained that the Bank for Agriculture and Agricultural Cooperatives granted credit to these farmers without property as collateral, giving them the idea that the government supported the destruction of the forest. The action of the Meo has given rise to the problem of the ruin of the forest and watershed with the subsequent hardship for the residents. It has also made difficulties in government.

The Chiang Mai MP said that the problem of forest destruction by the Meo is long standing and has occurred in every province of the north. If the government does not take sincere corrective measures, the Thai people will have the misconception that the government has a policy of pleasing the mountain people rather than the citizens. So he has asked the prime minister to order concerned government units to study a solution.

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CSO: 5300/4562

THAILAND

TIES WITH BURMA PLAY ROLE IN NARCOTICS SUPPRESSION

Bangkok SIAM RAT in Thai 3 Nov 81 p 7

[Article by Saengthai Khaophuthai]

[Text] After the prime minister returned from the United States it was thought that he would overhaul the opium heroin suppression openly. Whether this would please America or he must eradicate it completely is not known. To get two birds with one stone is to destroy the cold hearted death merchants and to destroy the financial base of the politicians.

When narcotics eradication is publicized the way the prime minister declared would be done openly, the past records in these circles should be examined before facing the dangers of jungle and explosions. The people who die from opium and heroin addiction are many. Those who die on the political scene because of the opium trade are many. Those who die because of narcotics suppression are many also.

An example of a person who dies from the political setting and the power of opium is Police Gen Phao Siyanon whom Field Marshal Sarit Thanarat could not force out of Thailand.

At that time the CIA supported Phao by getting markets for him, so there was a route to get out the opium of the KMT Chinese, settled in the north, to the world markets. This supplied capital in the struggle against the threat of the Chinese mainland, under the power of Mao Zedong. Because Phao's downfall was so frightening, it was difficult to find any influential person bold enough to find a place for him later.

A man who lose his political standing because of narcotics was Thanin Kraiwichian, former prime minister, formulator of the joint opium suppression program with Burma and the founder of the Office of the Narcotics Control Board directly under the Prime Minister's Office.

At that time Thanin vigorously, with a large investment, swept narcotics and equipment of every kind together for burning at Sanam Luang, just as in the time of Field Marshal Sarit 20 years before. But Thanin did not have the good fortune of the Field Marshal "Phakhama Daeng" because he was released from political circles.



However, the opium suppression policy of Thanin had one factor in common with the policy Prime Minister Prem Tinsulanon mentioned several days ago, that is, cooperation with Burma in the suppression of opium cultivation and heroin factories. At that time Thanin sent Upadit Patchariyangkun to promote friendly relations with President Ne Win of Burma, asking Burma to cooperate with Thailand in marshaling force to destroy opium cultivation and heroin traffic. The outcome was that Burma laughed in resentment because Burma was the one pressing for cooperation from Thailand, not the other way around. It was known that Burma was hurt and put up with a lot from Thailand.

At the time of the Ne Win coup U Nu fled to Thailand for political asylum. Burma made no objection because that was normal politics. If Ne Win were overthrown, he would also have fled to Thailand. But when Thailand allowed U Nu to use the Thai border as a sanctuary for those fighting with the Burmese, Burma was angry. But their anger was short-lived because in the end U Nu showed himself as no threat. The Karen and the Mon did not join him since in his time he had oppressed these groups the same as Ne Win.

What aroused Burma's greatest resentment against Thailand was the action when Burma could not suppress its minorities in fighting that lasted more than 30 years. The cause came from Thailand. Burma cited three major reasons. Whenever Burma pressed these minorities along the Thai border to destroy them, their groups escaped into Thailand. Following them caused incidents. The minorities or rebels as Burma called them knew the game. Whenever the Burmese government soldiers closed in on them, they turned their back and hung on the ropes to save themselves, just as Mohammed Ali did with George Foreman.

There was a protest at the beginning of 1977 when the Burmese government army with five battalions attacked a Karen base at Mura Island, opposite our Wang Kha in Tak Province, on the edge of the Moei River. Some units of the Burmese troops set up an ambush for the Karens in Thai territory because they knew that this group would flee into Thailand, since they were acquainted with Thai officials and always traded with them. Burma attacked the Karens and pushed them to fall back on Wang Kha, and destroyed shops and houses. Fourteen people were killed but they had no victory over the Karens. The Karens accused the Burmese of low body blows for the ambush on the Thai side. Thailand protested to Burma that the attack on Wang Kha was a violation of their territory.

Burma withdrew but paid no attention because Wang Kha was a center for goods crossing to Mura Island. From Mura Island they were sent to the heart of Burma, entered the black market, and brought the Karens a profit of 3 million baht a month for their army. This damaged Burmese economy since the merchandise appeared on the black market.

Another cause for Burmese anger was that some people in Thailand took over the trade of heroin and morphine of the Free Shan Army of Khun Sa or Chang Si Fu or Chan Changtrakun, and the traffic in opium or heroin of the KMT. This was a stab in the back for Burma. In the northern part of Thailand then these groups had money to support the army continually fighting with Burma.

In addition, the Thai set up heroin factories in the mountain ranges on the Thai border with Burma.

The final reason for Burmese resentment was the fact that Thai or influential persons from the Thai side were agents to procure weapons and military equipment for the liberation armies in Burma. Recently they arrested such a source.

Therefore, when the Thai asked for Burmese cooperation in Thanin's time the Burmese laughed in their faces.

"However hard and skillfully we tried for 6 months, the opium and heroin traffic in the north of Thailand reverted to its former condition," an aide of Ne Win replied. The Thai representatives returned.

If now General Prem sent men to negotiate in the same manner, we do not know whether the result would be as before.

Although the Thai were ushered out, the Burmese narcotics suppression officials followed Thanin's representatives to ask them back.

"There is very little change, only a glossing over the surface. The benefits for the Thai received in the offer (from the Shan State) are much better than an agreement with Ne Win. The people in Bangkok know it very well."

The people in Bangkok who know it well are the same group that ousted Thanin.

Let us go back to the drug trafficker, Khun Sa or Chang Si Fu, Khun Suk Chan, who has poppy flowers blooming in his heart. He expressed his distress when he saw the announcement of the 500,000 baht reward for his arrest, leaflets which the Border Police helicopter brought to scatter in the vicinity of Ban Hin Taek, Ban Muang Song, Tambon Mae Thom, Amphoe Mae Chan, Chiang Rai Province, recently.

"I myself want to see opium wiped out from the Golden Triangle, but there ought to be certain conditions." Khun Sa's conditions are to have the United States and Western countries, which are the victims of narcotics, to buy the opium from the mountain people stipulating a reduction in the cultivation each year and to introduce alternative economic crops. In 6 years the replacement crops would give sufficient results that opium cultivation could be abandoned. "My death would not halt opium growing in the Shan State because this has been going on for more than 200 years. I am just over 40. I have no meaning for opium in this area at all."

That indicates there is someone over Khun Sa but he did not say who it was.

Burma's return to the talks has significance. While there was destruction of heroin factories on the Burma side in February 1980 the Burmese soldiers crept up in the middle of the night, for 4 nights, to reach a mountain peak, the site of a factory, to deal with the heroin producers, who gave no resistance.

But while the soldiers made their way up the mountain, there was the sound of a gunshot, a danger signal warning the drug group, which came from Thai territory.

Later a helicopter secretly flew from the grounds beside the factory to enter Thai territory and disappear. "Someone with privilege had the use of the helicopter," the Burmese officials announced after the suppression. Burma invited international newsmen including Thai to observe the suppression.

Before this Burma had intercepted a white Thai Border Patrol Police helicopter loaded with 30 men. But the men declared that they were on official duty (secret as usual) and had lost their way. At that time Burma was conducting a successful operation against narcotics producers in that area. The incident occurred in June 1977, when Burma destroyed three heroin factories.

- Burma said no more when the Thai Government asked for the return of the helicopter and the men.

At the seizure of the heroin producing camps Burma also found many chemicals for the extraction of heroin, such as acetic anhydride ether, ammonium chloride, etc., which are prohibited chemicals under strict control.

How much Thailand supplies is not known. There is a large agency not far from SIAM RAT and there are two locations for sales.

Acetic anhydride is an element used with many other processes, so both drug factories need to use it.

Burma received from the United States 12 helicopters, Bell 205 A, for narcotics suppression operations, just the same as the United States gave Thailand. Burma will be disturbed when it finds a helicopter intruding over the border, saying "It is the same model as ours."

- Take a look at the narcotics suppression in the north of Thailand. If we do not count Khun Sa, there are still the KMT divided into three forces. The 3rd division of Gen Li I Thian or Li Woen Huang has over 1,500 men in the Tham Ngop district, a short distance west of Chiang Rai. Another group is that of Gen Tuan Chi Woen, who died not long ago, with an equal number of men at Doi Mae Salong and Wiang Ngoen in Chiang Rai. The independent division of Gen Ma Ching-Kuo was supported by President Chiang Ching-Kuo, the son of Marshal Chiang Kai-shek, for spying on mainland China. The first two engage in opium trade because they do not receive any subsidies and the CIA now does not hire them as mercenaries. They are a problem in suppressing opium and heroin because they are an irritation and involve confrontations between nations. Khun Sa himself said when he saw the Thai acting tough, "Destroying these forces is opening the way for the communists to take one step nearer the door to Thailand."

- We cannot say whether the tough narcotics suppression policy of Gen Prem Tinsulanon's government at this time will be a repetition of that of Thanin Kraiwichin. But we raise this example briefly to see that in the past there were such incidents as these.

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CSO: 5300/4562

THAILAND

COLUMNIST: SIZE OF OPIUM CARAVAN WARRANTS U.S. HELP

Bangkok BAN MUANG in Thai 12 Oct 81 pp 4, 5

[Article by Suk Wannasak: "Narcotics, a World Problem"]

[Text] It is true that drug caravans from neighboring countries entering Thailand sometimes meet patrols of the Border Patrol Police or of the army and a fire fight ensues. It is an old story. School children have heard it this way from the border police that whenever they found a caravan they hit it hard.

But the news, announced recently by the Supreme Command Headquarters, of a clash between a caravan and soldiers in the area of Ban Noi Phaya Samakkhi, Tambon Mae Kham, Amphoe Mae Chan, Chiang Rai is frightening because the large force encroaching on our territory numbered 700.

It is surmised that they transported opium. But details must come later since Lt Gen Som Khattaphan, director of the Information Office of the Supreme Command, stated only that the military communications network had not received detailed reports.

What focuses attention is why the caravan protection force is 700 people. If it is organized like an army, it is comparable to a battalion, raised to fight more than to transport opium.

In the view of the world, narcotics, Thailand, and the Thai people cannot be separated. Actual conditions force one to see it that way, because in the past Thailand has progressed more than Burma and Laos. The borders of the three nations meet in the vicinity of the Golden Triangle.

For the transport of opium and chemicals to produce heroin along the Thai-Burma border there is a convenient route to every region, whether for Malaysia or smuggling abroad, all depending on Thai territory.

Thai traveling to Hong Kong or Taiwan say that Customs there make a close examination if they hold Thai passports because they do not trust them and fear that they will bring in drugs to sell in those countries.

That is not the image of the Thai people, the image of insult.

Even Gen Prem Tinsulanon, the prime minister, on his trip to the United States, brought up the subject, that there is no escape from the narcotics problem. Gen Prachuap Suntharangkun, deputy prime minister, and Police Maj Gen Phao Sarasin, secretary general of the Narcotics Control Board, held discussions. Later President Reagan expressed satisfaction with the narcotics suppression policy of the Thai Government and gave assurance that the United States was prepared to help.

This should be because drugs have become a headache for the United States and are considered a worldwide problem.

From the incident of the major clash with the force transporting drugs the government should take this opportunity to publicize the news throughout the world, especially in the United States, to make them recognize the situation of Thailand, which is surrounded by people who are intent on producing and trafficking in narcotics.

The policy of the government is severe repression. The police in making arrests are killed. For a final solution how many more police must give their lives for the suppression of narcotics? The greater the suppression, the higher the price for drugs becomes. The addict must struggle to get money for drugs by any method. This usually means that honest people suffer as a result.

Another problem is to have the mountain people change their crops. But there are some reports that these people are hired to plant opium. Also, however good the price of the other crops they raise may be, it does not compare with the price of opium. For the United States to give assistance we must find out whether it is true about the hiring, who does the hiring, to get to the source.

In discussions with the United States, Police Maj Gen Phao Sarasin will take whatever assistance is offered.

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CSO: 5300/4562

THAILAND

MORPHINE BOUND FOR MALAYSIA SEIZED

Bangkok DAO SIAM in Thai 21 Oct 81 pp 1, 2

[Text] The Suppression Division arrested a gang dealing in morphine at a two-story row building in the center of the city, seizing 20 kg of illegal drugs worth over 13 million baht on a foreign market. The four morphine traffickers confessed that they had engaged in smuggling from the southern provinces into Malaysia for a long time before they were captured.

Police Col Rungrot Yamokkun, commander of Section 7, Suppression Division, at a briefing on 20 October 1981 at 0600 hours stated that the two-story building No 156/38 in the lane behind Wat Nakhon Tham, Ban Chang Lo Precinct, Bangkok Noi District, Bangkok Metropolis was the site for the secret morphine traffic for some time with shipments going to the southern provinces for Malaysia.

So with Police Lt Col Prakat Sataman, Police Lt Col Nitiphan Singhonka, Police Lt Col Khomkrit Phatphongphanit, deputy commanders Section 7, Police Lt Col Choetchai Chomthawat, inspector sub-division 2, Section 7, and a police force they surrounded the building. At 1100 hours Police Col Rungrot Yamokkun led the whole group in an attack, entered the building, and found the four men waiting to keep appointments with customers. He informed them of the charges. He ordered a search of the house. They found seven morphine bars packed in a yellow paper box, trademark 999, weighing 13.4 kg, valued at 1 million baht in Thailand. It would be worth 13,400,000 baht abroad. This was seized as illicit goods. Informed of the charges were Somnuk Rotruang, age 46, owner of the house, Wira Saengphong, age 39, address No 7 Soi Anamai, Tambon Anamai, Amphoe Muang, Songkhla Province, Wichai Makphong, age 28, address No 56 Tambon Ko Thuat, Amphoe Pak Phanang, Nakhon Si Thammarat Province, and Krachang Makphong, age 35. They were detained on the grounds of possession of narcotics with intent to sell. Police Col Rungrot Yamokkun brought the confiscated drugs and the four culprits to the Suppression Division for prosecution of the case.

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CSO: 5300/4562

THAILAND

SUSPECTS HELD WITH 50 GRAMS OF HEROIN

Bangkok POST in English 19 Dec 81 p 5

[Text] Chiang Mai--A provincial narcotics police team on Thursday arrested four men from Chiang Rai who allegedly were about to deliver 750 grammes of No. 4 heroin.

Two other suspects managed to escape arrest, police said.

Following a tip-off that drugs were to be delivered in the area of Sanamkeera Road in Muang District, Chiang Mai Narcotics Suppression Unit police waited there until a group of six suspects arrived.

Two of them fled when the police approached, but the other four were arrested allegedly with two bags of heroin in possession.

The arrested were identified as Saeng Potha, Chuchart Srihasena, Manu Mongsupha and Boonpan Chairuam.

They are being held on charges of possessing heroin with intent to sell.

CSO: 5300/4917

THAILAND

### THREE FRENCH NATIONALS HELD FOR SMUGGLING HEROIN

Bangkok POST in English 24 Dec 81 p 5

[Text]



*Alayou and Fink, arrested as their plane was about to leave for Rome.*

THREE French nationals, including two women, were arrested on board a plane at Don Muang airport and accused of possessing a total of 370 grammes of No. 4 heroin, police said yesterday.

Police said the three, named as Miss Ettdjui Legrain Fink, 32, Mrs Anna Eligio Fernandes Alayou, 21, and Antonio Tello Santos, 31, were already on board their Thai International flight to Rome late on Tuesday night when Customs

officials came to search them.

Miss Fink allegedly had 80 grammes of heroin hidden on her stomach while Mrs Alayou allegedly had 280 grammes hidden in her body. Santos was said to have 10 grammes hidden under his right foot.

They were initially charged with possessing and attempting to smuggle heroin and were handed over to Don Muang police for further questioning.





*Santos, accused of trying to take out heroin in his shoe.*

CSO: 5300/4917

THAILAND

BRIEFS

FORMER BPP CORPORAL HELD--Police arrested a former Border Patrol Police (BPP) corporal as he was allegedly about to deliver 3.5 kilogrammes of heroin yesterday--the second time he had been held on heroin charges, police said. Pol Cpl Sa-nguan Panchakhan was arrested when he arrived at Huay Kwang market at about 3 p. m. yesterday. Police said a waiting Crime Suppression team, tipped off there would be a heroin delivery, found the Double Lions brand heroin when they searched Sa-nguan's pick-up truck. Police claimed Sa-nguan admitted smuggling the heroin from Mae Sai District of Chiang Rai for clients in Bangkok. He was detained at the Crime Suppression Division on an initial charge of possessing the drugs with intent to sell. Former corporal Sa-nguan, a native of Mae Sai District, was previously arrested on January 9, 1978 when he and two others were allegedly waiting to deliver about 3.5 kg of heroin smuggled from Mae Sai. However, Pol Cpl Sa-nguan was acquitted by the three courts for lack of evidence, while the other two were sentenced. [Text] [Bangkok POST in English 8 Dec 81 p 5]

CSO: 5300/4917

BOLIVIA

BRIEFS

FIVE COCAINE FACTORIES DISMANTLED--It was reported today that in recent hours the Santa Cruz narcotics department dismantled five cocaine factories in the northern part of Santa Cruz department and arrested several persons involved in drug processing. Persons engaged in robbing cocaine manufacturers or swindling them with counterfeit money were also arrested. [La Paz Radio Illimani Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 18 Jan 82 PY]

CSO: 5300/2139

COLOMBIA

BRIEFS

PILLS SEIZED--Yesterday evening, police antinarcotics units confiscated a shipment of 2,315,000 (Lenon 714) pills, of broad spectrum, near Acandi in Choco Department. The seizure took place at the farm known as (Villa Maria). The drug had been processed in Colombia and was ready to be shipped to the United States. [PA231244 Bogota Radio Cadena Nacional in Spanish 1730 GMT 18 Jan 82]

COCAINE TRAFFICKERS ARRESTED--Leticia--The police have broken up a well-organized drug traffickers' gang that operated in southern Colombia. At a farm located in (Atacuyi), the police captured (Jose Reynaldo Ramirez), (Oliverio Samuel Turbege) and (Lenardo Castillo Ardila) when they were packing 2,500 grams of pure cocaine. A modern well-equipped cocaine processing laboratory was also found. [PA250318 Bogota Cadena Radial Super in Spanish 2300 GMT 18 Jan 82]

COCAINE CONFISCATED--Bogota, 18 Jan (AFP)--The attorney general's office has reported that 10 kg of cocaine were confiscated from Colombians Gabriel Gomez and Hernando and Grace Pradilla in the center of Bogota. The police also discovered and destroyed two large coca plantations in Miraflores in Meta Department. [PA250318 Paris AFP in Spanish 0235 GMT 19 Jan 82]

CSO: 5300/2143

PERU

BRIEFS

POPULAR ACTION DEPUTY SUSPENDED--The national plenum of the Popular Action last night resolved in a heated session "to separate indefinitely" from that party deputy for Huanuco Reynaldo Rivera, who has been accused of being implicated in narcotics trafficking. It also severely reprimanded Ayacucho representative Julio Cesar Galindo. This information was released by Prime Minister and Economy and Finance Minister Manuel Ulloa Elias, in his capacity as vice secretary general for political affairs of his party. [Excerpt] [PY160218 Lima EL COMERCIO in Spanish 13 Jan 82 pp 1-4]

CSO: 5300/2140

VENEZUELA

OVERALL YEARLY BALANCE OF ANTIDRUG ACTIVITIES

Caracas EL NACIONAL in Spanish 21 Dec 81 p D-11

[Article by Special Correspondent Alonso Zambrano: "1981 Operations: Drugs Amounting to More Than 1.5 Million Bolivars Seized by the DISIP /Directorate of Intelligence and Preventive Services/ in Zulia"/

[Text] Maracaibo, 26 Dec--The DISIP confiscated marihuana and mandrax tablets valued approximately at 1.5 Million bolivars in Zulia in various operations this year.

Commissioner Victor Rivera Azuaje, district chief of this organization, today said that officers of his department seized 100 kilos of this drug and some 10,000 mandrax tablets.

Commissioner Rivera also mentioned the disarmament operation that was carried out in Zulia. Even though he did not specify the quantity of equipment that was seized, it is presumed that an entire arsenal fell into the hands of the DISIP.

Machineguns, FALs, 9 mm pistols, rifles, revolvers, and "pineapple" grenades were seized in house raids in La Guajira, Maracaibo, Colon, Sucre and in the districts of Bolivar, Miranda, Baralt and Lagunillas along the eastern shore of the lake.

The DISIP chief spoke of the most recent operation in the Paez district (Guajira), where 10 members of a gang of murderers and holdup men led by Jose Manuel Fernandez alias "El Jountro," were arrested. These persons raided Venezuelan territory and hid out in Maicao.

It was learned that this past month "El Jountro" sparked the greatest police-military mobilization that ever took place in Zulia.

Members of the army and security forces were recently mobilized to search for him. They had received information that "El Jountro" and his 10 followers had formed a guerrilla group which could well have connections with the M-10 [as published] of Colombia.

However, later investigations ascertained that this was a question of a focus of criminal activity and that there were charges of murder, robbery, rape against the gang.

Border Operation

Ten persons were arrested and an equal number of weapons were seized as a result of an operation that the DISIP carried out in Sierra Azul, Los Laureles, and Los Cerritos, jurisdictional districts near the border with Colombia, the scene of several crimes and where the police force had not been effective.

Commissioner Victor Azuaje reported that the weapons that were seized--rifles, guns, shotguns, revolvers, and 9 mm caliber pistols--were turned over to Caracas. The 10 persons who were arrested for the most part are Colombians without documents.

Squad

The Zulia DISIP will be strengthened next 2 January through the addition of 100 new officers who recently graduated from the Police Academy and 15 patrol units.

Five of these units will be assigned to suburban patrol in fringe areas.

According to an announcement by Commissioner Rivera, on 2 January a Protection Squad will be activated in fringe areas. The officers of this squad will have jeeps and will patrol areas until now not covered by the police because of difficulty of access.

Commissioner Rivera made these announcements upon his return from Caracas, where the president of the republic conferred the Police Armed Forces Cross on him.

Rivera also reported the arrest in the past 6 months of 4,000 undocumented foreigners and also the recovery of many vehicles.

8255  
CSO: 5300/2125

AFGHANISTAN

FINNISH UN DRUG EXPERT REPORTS ON COUNTRY'S NARCOTICS USE

Helsinki HELSINGIN SANOMAT in Finnish 8 Jan 82 p 8

[Article: "Finnish Crime Inspector Returns from Afghanistan; In the Land of the Opium Poppy Even Children Receive Narcotics to Induce Sleep and to Feel Warm"]

As the first Finn to be appointed to the duties of an expert with the UN narcotics division, UNDND, Risto Veijalainen, a crime inspector with the Finnish Crime Police, returned to his homeland from Afghanistan at the end of 1981. His duties there were as a criminal investigation consultant in the narcotics unit of the interior ministry of that country.

From the outset Veijalainen's two-month tour included the managing of the UN narcotics project budget, coordination of customs and the work of the narcotics police, and the organizing of narcotics crime investigation training. The lack of time required postponing the training until spring 1982. The most important task, which was left uncompleted, was the renewal of the UN narcotics project.

"No UN officials were permitted to go outside of Kabul. The atmosphere in Kabul was more tense than it was during my previous official trip there in the spring of 1981. Many military aircraft were observed overhead daily," Veijalainen relates.

Crime Investigator Veijalainen had a conference with Interior Minister Gulabzoy in Kabul, at which they discussed narcotics matters. According to the minister, an "undeclared war" prevails in Afghanistan, which is one of the factors hampering the work of the narcotics police.

In early December 1981 a bomb was thrown into the sentry post shelter in front of the building housing the UN officials. Fortunately, no one was killed in that explosion, according to Veijalainen.

Two days later, together with a Cuban UN colleague, Veijalainen was witness to a bomb explosion in which one Afghanistan soldier died. Veijalainen does not have knowledge of any of the 200 UN officials in Afghanistan having been killed or injured in the shootings and bombings.

For the time being, no one is being sent to Afghanistan to replace Veijalainen in the duties of UN narcotics division expert. If conditions in Afghanistan permit, this Finnish expert is due for a renewal of his contract, possibly for four months during 1982, for the same narcotics project in Kabul.



#### Confiscations Becoming More Numerous

The state of war situation notwithstanding, Veijalainen was able to prepare the projected 1982 budget for the UN narcotics project and to draft a report on the narcotics situation in Afghanistan for UN headquarters in Vienna. In addition, Veijalainen functioned as consultant in the interior ministry narcotics unit in Kabul, distributing European crime investigation information to the local police chiefs. Veijalainen also put into operation the radio repair shop that was commissioned by the UN, which notably aids the work of the narcotics police.

The UN started the narcotics project in Afghanistan in 1974. Since then the narcotics police has been organized and partially retrained. Veijalainen feels that there is truly a great need for narcotics investigation training in Afghanistan. In addition to the expanded narcotics unit in Kabul, narcotics units have been established in the capitals of each of the eight provinces.

The UN has procured about 60 vehicles for use by the narcotics police and new accommodations for narcotics investigation, including modern investigation equipment.

The objective of the UN narcotics project in Afghanistan is the reduction of the growing, selling, black-marketing, and smuggling of opium. Afghanistan ranks as one of the highest opium poppy producing countries in the world.

Veijalainen states in his report that the number of narcotics confiscations is increasing in Afghanistan, partially as a result of the UN project. In 1981 over 11 tons of crude opium, about 100 kilograms of heroin, and about 2,000 kilograms of hashish were confiscated. The amount of opium confiscated in 1980 exceeded 6 tons.

"Opium has been used as a medicine in Afghanistan for thousands of years. The smoking of hashish also is an age-old tradition, and it is this sense of tradition that presents one of the greatest obstacles to ending the propagation of the opium poppy. In addition to all else, the opium poppy is the only cultivated plant that thrives high in the mountains."

According to Veijalainen, no figures exist of the extent of the internal narcotics problem in Afghanistan. The vast majority of the 16 million residents in the developing country of Afghanistan are still illiterate, and there are no official population statistics.

#### Opium Even for Infants

The use of narcotics always brings with it serious health problems. According to Veijalainen, children as young as 3 years old have been brought to the hospital in Kabul because of malnutrition caused by opium use. The Afghanistans, particularly those who live in the mountains, have been known to give opium to their children to induce sleep and to ward off the sensation of chilling, among other reasons.

"The extent to which the mortality rate in Afghanistan is affected by opium addiction is a matter of pure speculation, but it must perforce be considerable.

The first care center for drug abusers was to be established in the northeast part of the country, but that has been delayed because of the prevailing situation."

The selling and secret transporting of narcotics is prohibited by law in Afghanistan. The penalties, compared to those in Europe, are truly minimal.

On one occasion Veijalainen accompanied the Kabul narcotics police on a mission of confiscating 500 kilograms of crude opium. The normal penalty in that country for a violation of that magnitude is 2 years' imprisonment. The opium was hidden in the floor of the cargo compartment of a motor truck, packed in a double thickness of plastic bags, ready for transport across the border. The regular load on the truck consisted of bawling livestock.

Afghanistan is a traditional transit area for the international narcotics trade and also a country of origin where in many instances the growing of the opium poppy is the only means of livelihood for mountaineers. Pashtunestan, which is the boundary area between Afghanistan and Pakistan, is an area of brisk narcotics smuggling in which it will never be possible to provide adequate surveillance. A continuing flow of refugees aggravates the situation all the while.

As long as it is impossible to offer an alternative crop plant to the opium growers, everything will continue, according to Veijalainen, as it did a thousand years ago. Afghanistan needs water and an irrigation system in order to make rational use of its arable land area.

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CSO: 5300/2121

AFGHANISTAN

BRIEFS

OPIUM SEIZED IN KABUL--New Delhi, 27 Jan (AFP)--Government security forces in the Afghan capital have seized 2,122 kilograms of opium in the biggest haul of this kind, the state-owned newspaper KABUL NEW TIMES reported. The opium, packed in 46 sacks and apparently meant for smuggling, were seized in Kabul on 17 January, a copy of the newspaper reaching the Indian capital today said. The security forces, aided by members of the ruling People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan (PDPA), arrested eight persons and seized from them 350,000 in Afghan currency (about U.S.\$7,954), the paper said. The Soviet-backed Babrak Karmal regime in Afghanistan has repeatedly accused the Muslim rebels fighting the regime of smuggling opium from the country to Pakistan. Reports appearing in India have said that the rebels had frequently sold smuggled opium in Pakistan and bought weapons with the money. [Text] [BK271245 Hong Kong AFP in English 1230 GMT 27 Jan 82]

CSO: 5300/5359

IRAN

BRIEFS

DRUG ARRESTS--According to the Central News Unit, the antinarcotics headquarters of the Esfahan Guards Corps issued a statement announcing: The headquarters discovered 6.7 kg of opium from 22 December to 20 January. According to this report, during the same period, seven supporters of the hypocrites organization [Mojahedin-e Khalq], who were involved in the sale of opium, were arrested by the groups attached to that headquarters and were handed over to the Islamic Revolution Court after their dossiers were completed. According to this report, the anti-narcotics officers of Shiraz Revolution Guards Corps also discovered 24.3 kg of opium. A number of smugglers were arrested and handed over to the Shiraz Revolution Court. [Text] [LD250310 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 24 Jan 82]

MASHHAD OPIUM SEIZURE--The Mashhad antidrug squad has seized 1.5 kg of opium and 50 grams of heroin from a number of persons. [GF301642 Mashhad Domestic Service in Persian 1430 GMT 30 Jan 82]

NARCOTICS STASH SEIZED--Tehran, Jan. 11 (IRNA)--A stash of various types of narcotic drugs weighing 400 kgs was discovered in Mowlavi Street, southern Tehran on Saturday night. This was announced by the Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps of Tehran who added that the narcotics were concealed in cooking oil tins. The report also indicated that those connected with the narcotics were arrested and handed over to Judicial authorities. [Text] [Tehran KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL in English 12 Jan 82 p 2]

CSO: 5300/5355

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IVORY COAST

INTERNAL SECURITY PLANS ANTIDRUG CAMPAIGN

Paris MARCHES TROPICAUX ET MEDITERRANEENS in French No 1887, 8 Jan 82 pp 80-81

[Text] Ivory Coast plans to intensify its fight against the peddling and use of drugs domestically by organizing an "antidrug campaign" to be launched soon.

The most widespread drug in the country is cannabis, still called locally "guedji," of which several plantations were recently destroyed in various regions. Nonetheless, a significant amount of the herb continues to flow in from neighboring countries, as do the barbiturates and amphetamines appearing on the Ivorian clandestine market.

As to hard drugs (heroin and cocaine), Ivorian authorities say they are vigilant, especially since everything seems propitious for their introduction and marketing domestically.

Gabriel Gnogbo Gouamene, Ivorian secretary of state for internal security, has moreover called for the participation of all in the upcoming campaign. Referring to his ministry's strategy in the antidrug fight, he stated that from 1960 to 1970, assorted discreet countermeasures were in effect "so as to not arouse curiosity." "Since 1975, we decided to demythologize drugs," he added.

From now on, said Gouamene, we will be informing the people of the "daily increasingly devastating effects" of drugs among them. Customs and police moreover continue to step up their fight so that Abidjan will cease to be considered as a center for drugs.

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SOUTH AFRICA

DETECTIVE SEIZES SHIPMENT OF DAGGA IN REITZ

Johannesburg THE CITIZEN in English 19 Jan 82 p 2

[Article by Rika van Graan]

[Text]

A Free State detective seized dagga worth R960 000 when he investigated a case of a furniture truck stolen in Johannesburg which was found on a farm in the Reitz district at the weekend.

A flat tyre apparently led to the arrest of seven Black men on the farm Mullervale of Mr A Meintjes.

One of the pilot cars, which accompanied the furniture truck which had false number plates CBD 0142, had a flat tyre and asked for help at a farm. The truck also pulled off the road, and as it arrived on the farm, the strange number aroused suspicion. The police were notified.

Warrant-Officer Bertus Kruger arrived on the farm shortly afterwards, and as the truck was opened, it was found to be filled with 120 bags of dagga.

Police took possession

of the dagga, the furniture truck and the pilot cars, while seven Blacks were arrested and will appear in the Reitz Magistrate's Court this week.

The convoy was apparently on its way from Lesotho to Johannesburg when the alleged smugglers had trouble with the flat tyre.

In the eastern Transvaal, about 20 policemen, assisted by two defence force helicopters, are busy cleaning up an average of 28 dagga lands since Monday last week.

The CID chief for the area, Brig Jurgens Smith, said that detectives have also confiscated two brewing kettles and seized about 6 500 litres of skokiaan.

The cleaning-up operation was launched in the mountains in the Nelspruit, White River, and Barberton districts.

It is expected that the operation will continue until the end of the week.

CSO: 5300/5622

SOUTH AFRICA

BRIEFS

DAGGA DESTROYED--Durban--Twenty tons of dagga worth more than R600 000 has already been destroyed in the Umkomaas Valley, by a police force of 60 led by Colonel J Joubert of Pietermaritzburg. The police raiding party, assisted by a helicopter, are combing the dense valley looking for dagga plantations. Several fields have been located and destroyed. Three Black men were arrested after police found five grain bags of processed dagga. More arrests are expected. The operation will continue into next week. Most of the dagga fields are well concealed and can only be spotted from the air. [Text] [Johannesburg THE CITIZEN in English 16 Jan 82 p 10]

DAGGA SEIZED--Police have seized dagga worth R1,5-million contained in 84 bags after they had stopped a truck driving through Soweto streets. The big catch, believed to be one of the largest ever to be cracked by the police, occurred at midnight on Friday when the truck transporting the drug was stopped by Constable William Hand in Union Road, Eldorado Park. Captain Marais Bonthuys, police public relations officer for the Witwatersrand, said yesterday that three Soweto men have been arrested, have made their first appearance and will appear again on Thursday. Captain Bonthuys said police spotted a suspicious truck which did not have rear registration numbers and stopped it. The truck also did not have a renewed licence and it was locked at the back. The three men were asked to open the back, but claimed they had lost the key. "After some time police broke the lock and to their amazement the truck was full of dagga," he said. Police said the dagga in the 84 bags was worth about R1,5-million. The men are believed to have been on their way to deep Soweto where they would have made a fortune by selling the weed. [Text] [Johannesburg THE SOWETAN in English 22 Dec 81 p 1]

MANDRAX ARREST--Police have seized more than 8 000 mandrax tablets valued at about R90 000 after stopping a car at a roadblock near New Canada outside Soweto. This is the second biggest drug haul in Soweto in a week. Last Monday narcotic detectives confiscated 84 dagga bags worth R500 000 in Eldorado Park. A man was arrested on Sunday morning when a policeman stopped a car near New Canada railway station. They found 8 448 tablets. It is believed the habit-forming tablets were on their way into the city where they sell for R10 each. Witwatersrand Police Liaison Officer, Captain Marius Bonthuys, said it is absolutely illegal to use or prescribe mandrax tablets. [Text] [Johannesburg THE SOWETAN in English 29 Dec 81 p 1]

CSO: 5300/5622

DENMARK

REPORT: ONLY TWO PERCENT HASHISH SEIZURES FROM CHRISTIANIA

Copenhagen INFORMATION in Danish 19-20 Dec 81 p 5

[Text] According to estimates made by the People's Movement Against Hard Drugs only 2 percent of the hashish in Denmark is sold in Christiania.

The repeated attacks on Christiania as the "Nordic Narcotics Center," which have been presented recently by various Nordic politicians, police people and portions of the Danish press, are now countered by the People's Movement Against Hard Drugs which has done some figuring on the basis of reported sales of hashish and narcotic substances in Denmark.

On the basis of police seizures the following calculations were made. In 1980 1375 kg of hashish were seized in all in Denmark. No statistics were available for the entire country for 1981 but it is known that in the months January to November seizures of 882 kg of hashish were made in Copenhagen, including 45.6 kg found in Christiania.

This shows according to the People's Movement that only 5.2 percent of the Copenhagen sales took place in Christiania and if the entire country is included Christiania's "share" is only 3.3 percent of total sales.

A Ton in Christiania

But the People's Movement thinks it can go even further, writing in a press release:

"Police activity in Christiania is disproportionately high in relation to activity in the rest of Copenhagen and in the rest of Denmark. As a result of this it must be assumed that a larger share of the available hashish in Christiania is seized than in the rest of Denmark. Therefore it must be concluded that actual sales of hashish in Christiania probably amount at most to 2 percent of all hashish sales in Denmark.

"No one knows the total consumption of hashish in Denmark. It is reasonable to make an estimate on the basis of police seizures. If one estimates that the police seize 3 percent of Danish consumption the total would be almost 50 tons, of which 1 ton is sold in Christiania.



"One arrives at the same consumption if it is assumed that there are 250,000 regular hashish smokers with a daily consumption of 0.5 grams (= 45 tons).

"These figures should be taken with all possible reservations, however--it is possible they should be cut in half. The figures are based solely on percentages of police seizures."

The People's Movement also looked at heroin sales. Total seizures of this substance in the entire country amounted to 12 kg but only 1.8 grams of the drug were found by police in Christiania during the first 10 months of the year.

If one looks at sales in terms of money the People's Movement has the following figures. According to the police annual sales of heroin add up to 500 kg. At "street prices" this means 1.8 billion kroner while hashish sales are estimated to have a value of 1.75 billion kroner. Total sales would thus be 3.55 billion.

On this basis the People's Movement arrives at the following conclusion:

"This amount includes only heroin and hashish, not all the other drugs. Drug sales in Christiania (only hashish) correspond to a value of 35 million kroner, which is less than 1 percent of total sales in Denmark."

#### BERLINGSKE Errors

The People's Movement has also discovered that the editors of BERLINGSKE TIDENDE are not very well-informed about prices on the hashish market.

As an example they say that BERLINGSKE TIDENDE recently wrote that 1981 drug seizures in Christiania were worth 7 million kroner, including about 6 million worth of hashish.

But since the quantity seized was 45.6 kg of hashish this would mean a sales price of 130 kroner a gram and the People's Movement does not believe hashish pushers in Christiania could get anyone to pay that much. The actual market price in 1981 was 30-50 kroner a gram. That means that the quantity of hashish seized had a value of 1.5-2 million kroner.

The People's Movement concluded with the following evaluation of the situation:

"As it appears from the calculations the myth of Christiania as the Nordic Narcotics Center is a fairy tale with no basis in actual conditions today.

"Some 3 years ago--before the big narcotics blockade that is still effective--Christiania was on the way to becoming a narcotics center and that is probably the picture many people still have of Christiania. But the attacks are coming 3 years too late. As the figures show Christiania is practically high and dry when it comes to hard drugs and the sale of hashish is very small compared to sales in the rest of Denmark.

"There are two reasons why Christiania has been singled out with regard to hashish dealing: first it is an excuse to shut down Christiania and second the sales occur openly in contrast to the much larger drug dealing in the rest of Denmark.

"The way to solve the problems of hashish abuse among Danish and Nordic young people is not to close Christiania. It requires an educational and preventive effort of an entirely different nature, something Danish and Nordic politicians should open their eyes to."

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CSO: 5300/2127

DENMARK

ARRESTS BREAK UP GANG; DISTRIBUTED 480 KILOGRAMS OF HASHISH

Copenhagen BERLINGSKE TIDENDE in Danish 15 Jan 82 p 2

[Article by Bent Bak Andersen]

[Text] Sentences extending from fines to as much as 4 years in jail are the preliminary result of the unraveling of three big hashish rings in Helsingor. In all 53 people have been charged and the three ringleaders have been convicted of distributing a total of 480 kg of hashish.

The last of the three ringleaders--the leader of the biggest narcotics gang--was sentenced Tuesday to 4 years in jail. Another 31 people in that gang who were middlemen to pushers or in one case also functioned as "warehouse man" since he stored large portions of hashish while the leader--30-year-old Niels Erik Greve--was out finding new markets have also been charged.

Police in Helsingor say that Niels Erik Greve was behind the distribution of more than 200 kg, but that was all he was charged with in court.

Another of those sentenced, 31-year-old Bjarne Hojlund Petersen, was sentenced last June to 3 years and 6 months in jail, charged with dealing in 200 kg of hashish. In his wake 17 people were charged for violations of the strict drug paragraph of the Penal Code or the law on euphoric substances. The police expect that Bjarne Hojlund Petersen's earnings were around 1 million kroner.

The last of the ringleaders, 38-year-old Poul Vimo Lindberg, was sentenced for dealing in 80 kg of hashish. He denied everything but last October he was sentenced to 3 years and 6 months in jail. On the same day his wife was sentenced to 1 year in jail for complicity in distributing the drug.

Characteristic of the group of cases is that all those sentenced and charged are from Helsingor and vicinity. Most of the hashish was sold in Helsingor, the rest in Sweden where a long list of pushers received sentences.

Just before New Year's the police arrested another two men--one foreigner and a Dane with close ties to large sectors of the European drug network with the two being suspected of having delivered the large batches of hashish to the three ringleaders in Helsingor. This part of the case which would round out the drug gang case is expected by police to be completely investigated by summer.

CSO: 5300/2127

46

DENMARK

POLICE REPORT HASHISH USERS ARE INCREASINGLY YOUNGER

Copenhagen BERLINGSKE TIDENDE in Danish 16 Jan 82 p 1

[Article by Kirsten Sorrig]

[Text] The police are coming in contact with more and more children who are drug addicts--and girls begin earliest. This is shown by the latest figures for 1981 from the Copenhagen Police Station.

During the year the riot patrol was in contact with three boys and two girls under 13 years of age, all of them affected by hard drugs. Four of the children were arrested for selling or being in possession of narcotics. The riot patrol was in contact with six girls and three boys of 13 and 13 girls and 10 boys of 14. Among 15-year-olds the police were in contact with 21 girls and 18 boys.

"There are more girls among the youngest group but after 15 the number of male drug addicts rises sharply," said the leader of the riot patrol, Ove Nielsen. Thus the police were in contact with 83 boys and 25 girls in the 16-year-old age bracket.

Ove Nielsen estimates that there are between 10,000 and 15,000 drug addicts in Denmark, with most of them between 23 and 29 years of age. He says the drug problem has stabilized in the last year and does not think there has been either an increase or a decline in the number of addicts.

"But there is a clear tendency for drug addicts to begin earlier and earlier. Almost every night we see a dozen children who are only 9 or 10 years old under the influence of hashish. The new generation of drug addicts that has started so early worries us very much for if children get into a drug environment at that early age it will be very hard for them to adjust to another environment later on," said Ove Nielsen.

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CSO: 5300/2127

DENMARK

BRIEFS

PRIME MINISTER ON SMUGGLING APPEAL--Prime Minister Anker Jorgensen has now assured 38-year-old Pakistani Altaf Hussain in a personal letter that he will not be expelled from Denmark before his application for political asylum has been duly processed. Altaf Hussain will have served 4 years in jail as of 25 February for the sale of a large number of Pakistani morphine pills and on release he stands to be expelled by Justice Minister Ole Espersen unless he is granted political asylum. In the letter, which is dated 8 January, Anker Jorgensen thanks Hussain for his "Christmas card" and writes that he has informed the Justice Ministry of the application. Anker Jorgensen did not want to talk to BERLINGSKE TIDENDE about why he had answered Hussain personally instead of turning the case over to the justice minister. Hussain could have been released as early as April 1980 but has remained in jail "voluntarily" for the last 21 months in order to avoid being expelled. [By Jorn Brandt] [Excerpts] [Copenhagen BERLINGSKE TIDENDE in Danish 16 Jan 82 p 5] 6578

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